GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1587
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2006
SHORTAGE OF GAS FOR POWER PLANTS
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) The performance of gas fuelled power plants in the country;

(b) The estimated gas required by NTPC for its gas based power plants ;

(c) The steps taken by the Government to deal with the problem of gas scarcity in such plants ;

(d) Whether NTPC has offered stake to Qatar Investment Board (QIB) for gas based power plants;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) The response of Qatar Investment Board thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF POWER(SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) :The performance of Gas fuelled power plants in the country during the current year (April, 2006-October, 2006) compared with corresponding period of last year are given as under:

Sectors	2006-07 (April, 2006 to Oct., 2006)		2005-06 (April, 2005 to Oct., 2005)	
	Actual Plant Load (in MUs)	Factor	Actual Plant Load (in MUs)	Factor
Central	14527	71.45%	14196	69.82%
State	9398	59.00%	9771	63.23%
Private (Pvt. Utility and IPP)	9773	49.22%	10013	60.62%
Total	33698		33980	

Note: Excludes Liquid (NAPTHA/Diesel) based station.

(b) & (c) : The estimated requirement of Gas for NTPC Power Plants to meet the generation targets fixed by Central Electricity Authority for its Gas based power stations is 13.74 MMSCMD (Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter Per Day).NTPC has made long time arrangement for supply of 13.74 MMSCMD of gas for all its gas based plants (including 0.75 MMSCMD of Gas on fall back basis for Gandhar Gas Power Project). As against this, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) signed an agreement for only 12.93 MMSCMD of Gas and supplied approximately 8.95 MMSCMD of Gas during the current year (till October, 2006) which works out to 65.14% of requirement of gas by NTPC plants and 69.22% of quantity committed by GAIL.

In order to mitigate the shortage of gas, tie-ups have been made by NTPC for supply of Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) from GAIL, Indian Oil Corporation Limited

(IOCL) & Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) on fallback basis. Further, NTPC are also procuring Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) through the Spot market from time to time from GAIL, IOCL, BPCL, Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) & Hazira LNG Ltd.

(d) to (f) :The Indian delegation to Qatar led by Principal Secretary to Prime Minister in May, 2006 had discussions on investment opportunity in India in various sectors including power sector.

During the discussion, NTPC`s proposed gas based expansion project namely Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Project Stage-II (1950 MW) at Kayamkulam, Kerala was offered for investment to Govt. of Qatar / Qatar Investment Authority as an equity partner / joint venture partner.

Accordingly, the project highlights and draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were forwarded by NTPC to Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) during May, 2006 / June, 2006 for their reference and perusal. As per the draft MoU, the equity holding offered to Qatar was upto 40% with NTPC having controlling stake with equity not less than 50%.

The response from QIA is still awaited.